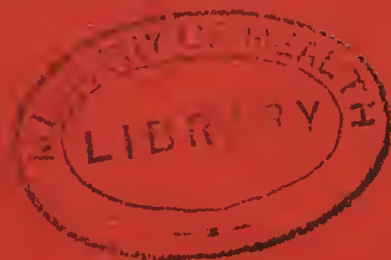


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The Rural District Council of Hexham



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

AND OF

THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1954.

The Rural District Council of Hexham



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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEXHAM.



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1954

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., *Medical Officer of Health*

C. BARRAS, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

J. HEWITT, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector.

G. B. HOGG, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Duties :

}	Public Health.
	Housing.
	Meat and Foods
	Inspection.
	Council House
	Management.
	Refuse Collection &
	Disposal.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
for the year ended 31st December, 1954.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for 1954. Dr. Hurley was Acting Medical Officer of Health during the first half of the year, and I am indebted to him for information relating to that period. I am pleased to say that Dr. Hurley's experience will continue to be available to the Council when required, as he has been appointed to act in my absence.

Hexham Rural District is one of the largest such districts in England and Wales. The population has remained at about 20,000 for many years with only small fluctuations. The main industry is agriculture with its ancillary trades, and many parts of the district are residential.

The public health problems are those of a large rural area with scattered centres of population, and such services as housing, water supply, sewage disposal and scavenging present difficulties on that account. The housing programme must be spread over a number of parishes, and a considerable demand for houses still exists. In 1954, 103 houses were built, 77 of them by the Council, and a further 73 are under construction. In addition the Council has made a large number of improvement grants, 93 in 1954, to enable properties to be brought up to acceptable standards. The main change in the water service has been the completion of the new scheme to supply Corbridge, and an improved supply to Sandhoe, Oakwood and Acomb. No new sewage works have been built, but approval has been given to a scheme at Newbrough to supply existing and new housing. New works are urgently required at Haydon Bridge and Stocksfield.

The large number of caravan sites in the district presents a special public health problem, and control of the sites is difficult. Powers under the Public Health Act and the Town and Country Planning Act are not well defined, and there are many loopholes. The sites vary very much, some being quite satisfactory and some overcrowded and squalid. The essential services are supplied to each site, but where there is sub-letting, these services are not always properly used and constant supervision is given by the Sanitary Department.

A scheme for a permanent site has been turned down on account of cost, and control of sub-letting would probably be the best answer. In spite of the conditions, no epidemic disease has occurred, and the health of the caravan community appears satisfactory. These settlements are likely to continue, and the main essentials are to provide a pure water supply and to avoid indiscriminate waste disposal that might contaminate private water supplies.

The birth rate at 14.57 per 1,000 population and the death rate at 11.39 per 1,000 are very close to the national average. There were six deaths in infancy, all in the first four weeks of life. Four of the deaths, being due to congenital malformation or prematurity, can be considered non-preventable as the cause and prevention of these conditions is not precisely known.

The infectious disease returns were low and call for no special mention. For the sixth successive year there have been no cases of diphtheria, and the level of immunisation of children is satisfactory, 73% of school children being protected. There were two deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis as against five in 1953, and as the death rate falls efforts are being made at early ascertainment of new cases to allow for treatment and to prevent the spread of infection. There is an excellent liaison with the Chest Clinic at the Hexham General Hospital and the Consulting Chest Physician and the Senior Registrar are actively interested in tuberculosis control. Apart from the measures they take for this purpose a survey was carried out at Haydon Bridge in 1954 when almost all the children were investigated and many of the adults. The fact that no new cases were found is reassuring. Such surveys are preventive and the presence of cases of tuberculosis is sought through their child contacts. The County Council scheme for the B.C.G. vaccination of susceptible schoolchildren over the age of 13 has received approval, but no vaccination was carried out in 1954.

The whole Council act as the Health Committee, and I should like to thank the Chairman and Members for their interest and support. I should like to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Clerk and other Officers, and especially to the Sanitary Inspectors, for their help and co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	196,030
Estimated Population, 1954	20,090

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

Live Births—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	146	131	277
Illegitimate	7	3	10
Still Births—			
Legitimate	1	2	
Illegitimate	—	1	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			14.57
Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			14.73

DEATHS.

Total Deaths from puerperal causes—	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	Nil
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births	Nil
Death Rates of Infants under one year of age—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	20.50
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	17.08
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	3.42
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms (all ages)	48
„ „ Measles (all ages)	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (all causes and all ages)	11.39

VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year.	Birth Rate per 1,000 living	General Death Rate per 1,000 living	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 living
1929	13.2	11.6	50.1
1930	13.2	11.8	63.3
1931	12.7	12.7	94.3
1932	13.5	12.3	53.3
1933	12.3	12.3	26.9
1934	10.6	12.2	67.5
1935	13.9	12.1	52.8
1936	13.2	13.4	66.9
1937	13.2	13.9	60.6
1938	14.1	15.3	68.5
1939	10.7	12.4	79.4
1940	12.2	12.9	56.1
1941	12.0	12.3	42.2
1942	14.4	12.6	21.1
1943	13.7	13.7	37.2
1944	15.4	12.8	44.0
1945	13.2	13.1	31.1
1946	18.1	13.1	46.9
1947	17.4	14.4	34.2
1948	16.0	12.6	18.0
1949	14.3	12.4	23.4
1950	14.8	13.4	29.0
1951	13.86	14.20	28.07
1952	15.32	12.75	54.85
1953	14.67	12.01	27.21
1954	14.57	11.39	20.50

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

9

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Allendale		Bywell		Hexham		TOTAL	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and para- sitic diseases	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	1	1	3	3	7	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	—	2	—	—	—	4	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	—	2	—	4	—	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	3	1	2	2	12	14	17	17
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
16. Diabetes	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	6	8	7	5	17	16	30
18. Coronary disease, angina ..	6	3	5	6	16	7	27	16
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	1	—	1	1	3	1	5
20. Other heart disease	4	5	7	7	9	7	20	19
21. Other Circulatory disease ..	2	4	5	2	5	3	12	9
22. Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia	2	1	—	1	1	—	3	2
24. Bronchitis	—	2	—	3	1	—	1	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duo- denum	1	—	1	1	3	—	5	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarr- hoea	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ..	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abor- tion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3	4	2	5	6	12	11
33. Motor vehicle accidents ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
34. All other accidents	1	—	2	—	—	1	3	1
35. Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
	30	30	40	40	69	60	139	130

TOTAL .. 269

Infant Mortality during Year ending December 31st, 1954

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH				Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
Smallpox	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Measles	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Diphtheria and Croup	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Pul. Tuberculosis	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Abdominal Tuberculosis	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Bronchitis	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	|	2	|	|	2	|	|	|	|	2
Diarrhoea	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	|	|	|	1	1	|	|	|	|	1
Premature Birth	..	..	..	2	|	|	|	2	|	|	|	|	2
Marasmus	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Atelectasis	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Injury at birth	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Appendicitis	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Accident	..	..	..	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Other Infant Diseases	..	..	..	1	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	1
All causes	{	Certified.	..	3	2	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	6
		Uncertified	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
GRAND TOTALS ..				3	2	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1954

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District													Total Cases notified in each Sub-District			
	At all Ages	Under 1												Allendale	Bywell	Hexham	
		1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	65—				65 and over	Aggravated
Scarlet Fever ..	17	—	—	1	1	14	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	74	3	4	7	5	38	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	45	1	—	3	2	21	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	11	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	166	4	5	12	8	75	20	2	12	4	8	1	3	27	26	113	166

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1954 :-

Age periods	New Cases.				Nett Deaths in Hexham Rural District.			
	Pulmonary.		Non. Pulm.		Pulmonary.		Non. Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	5	2	1	1	1	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1930-1954.

Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria	Measles.	Pneumonia.	Cerebrospinal Fever.	Acute Polio-myelitis.	Acute Polio-encephalitis.	Acute Encephalitis.	Dysentery.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Smallpox.	Paratyphoid Fevers.	Enteric or Typhoid	Erysipelas.	Food Poisoning.
1930	17	—	10	—	20	1	—	—	—	6	1	6	—	—	3	14	—
1931	29	—	9	—	24	—	—	—	—	4	3	1	—	—	3	8	—
1932	18	—	14	—	29	—	—	—	1	2	1	6	1	—	—	9	—
1933	26	—	1	—	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	4	—
1934	126	—	10	—	19	1	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	1	8	—
1935	72	—	16	—	17	—	1	—	—	3	3	2	—	—	1	13	—
1936	107	—	48	—	26	1	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	2	4	—
1937	32	—	4	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	6	—
1938	53	—	13	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	4	—
1939	62	7	28	7	15	8	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	8	—
1940	17	11	16	170	14	3	1	—	—	—	8	11	—	—	1	2	—
1941	11	59	13	91	16	3	—	—	—	1	9	17	—	—	1	7	—
1942	13	1	7	65	11	3	—	—	—	12	8	13	—	—	7	3	—
1943	23	24	4	114	20	1	—	—	—	7	10	18	—	—	—	6	—
1944	29	28	3	32	5	—	—	—	—	5	15	17	—	—	—	5	—
1945	36	18	8	23	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	5	—
1946	21	45	6	81	15	1	3	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	2	—
1947	4	33	6	208	8	—	8	—	—	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
1948	29	56	1	81	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	1	—	4	—
1949	18	22	—	146	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	6	10
1950	31	99	—	255	26	—	4	—	—	1	—	10	—	—	—	9	1
1951	14	45	—	220	32	3	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
1952	24	71	—	162	18	—	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	5	1
1953	30	144	—	172	17	—	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	2
1954	17	74	—	45	11	—	—	—	—	4	—	14	—	—	—	—	1

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS, YEAR, 1954.

FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS RETURNED TO R.G.

1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total	
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1	1	
OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS					Nil
OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE					Nil
SINGLE CASES :—					
Agent identified (Salmonella Thompson)					1
Unknown cause					Nil
TOTAL					1

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

(1) Hospitals.

There are in the district five hospitals under the management of the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee. These comprise the Charlotte Straker Hospital and the Bridge End Maternity Hospital at Corbridge, the Dilston Maternity Hospital, Barrasford Sanatorium and Wooley Sanatorium. These hospitals together with the Hexham General Hospital, the Hexham War Memorial Hospital and the Newcastle group of hospitals are available to cases from the area.

Cases of infectious disease requiring admission to hospital are referred to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle upon Tyne.

(2) Ambulance Service.

The British Red Cross acting as agents for the Northumberland County Council provide an ambulance service which serves the district. Ambulance Stations are situated at Corbridge and at Hexham.

(3) Home Help Service.

The Northumberland County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district. Home Helps are available to households where such help is required owing to illness or confinement, and their services are obtained through the office of the West Area Health Sub-Committee, Prospect House, Hexham.

(4) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

The following Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held by the Northumberland County Council in the district :—

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.

Acomb	Miners' Institute Hall, Acomb. Alternate Thursdays.
Allendale ..	Dr. Clayburn's Surgery. Second Monday in month, 1-30—4 p.m.
Corbridge ..	Parish Hall, Princes Street. Alternate Tuesdays : 9-30 a.m.—12 noon. 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.
Haydon Bridge	Church Hall. Alternate Mondays : 9-30 a.m.—12 noon. 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.
Humshaugh ..	Village Hall. Every fourth Thursday, 1-30—4 p.m.
Newbrough ..	Women's Institute. Alternate Wednesdays, 1-30—4 p.m.
Ovington ..	Methodist Church Hall, Ovington. Alternate Tuesdays.
Riding Mill ..	Parish Hall. Alternate Thursdays, 1-30—4 p.m.
Stocksfield ..	Red Cross Hut. Alternate Mondays : 9-30 a.m.—12 noon. 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.
Wylam ..	Methodist Church Hall. Alternate Tuesdays, 1-30—4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Allendale ..	Dr. Clayburn's Surgery. Alternate Tuesdays, 1-30—4 p.m.
Stocksfield ..	Red Cross Hut. Every fourth Tuesday, 1-30—4 p.m.

(5) Midwifery and Home Nursing Service.

These services are now administered by the North-umberland County Council and in this area are combined. There are nine Nurse Midwives working in the Hexham Rural District.

Recent Progress—Water and Sewerage.

I am indebted to Mr. W. W. Outhwaite, the Engineer and Surveyor, for the following information regarding water and sewerage schemes.

WATER SCHEMES.

Acomb and Sandhoe Parishes.

Acomb, Sandhoe and Oakwood are now supplied by water pumped from the springs at Hollyhall to a new reservoir at Sandhoe and allowed to gravitate to Oakwood and Acomb. The supply to these areas is now satisfactory.

Allendale Parish.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have held an inquiry into the proposed Old Town Water Scheme and further discussions are taking place.

Chollerton Parish.

A scheme is in course of preparation to supply the villages of Gunnerton, Barrasford and Humshaugh by pumping raw water from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company's raw water main at Gunnerton, erecting a filter house and reservoir and laying new mains.

Corbridge Parish.

The new scheme from the springs at Moor Gair has been completed and is in operation.

Hexham Low Quarter Parish.

This area is now supplied by the new pipe line from the Moor Gair springs.

Newbrough Parish.

A scheme is in course of preparation for supplying the villages of Newbrough, Butt Bank and Fourstones, from the present supplementary supply of Mr. Newall's drift.

Riding Parish.

Negotiations are in hand for the taking over of the Riding Mill Estate Company's water undertaking.

Whittonstall Parish.

The private supply from the well belonging to the National Coal Board has been abandoned. Piped water is now supplied to the village from an extension of the Durham County Water Board's main at Newlands.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

The only progress to report is that the Newbrough sewage scheme to take in both the existing and new houses has been approved.

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

SUMMARY OF SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLIED TO HOUSES IN HEXHAM R.D.C.

PARISH	Census 1951	WATER SUPPLY								Durham County Water Board	
		Council		N/cle. and Gateshead Water Co.		Private Supplies					
		Pop.	Hses.	Pop.	Hses.	Pop.	Hses.	Pop.	Hses.	Pop.	Hses.
Acomb	1034	343	765	262	—	—	269	81	—	—	
Allendale	1911	733	1026	416	—	—	885	317	—	—	
Blanchland	170	62	—	—	—	—	170	62	—	—	
Broomhaugh & Riding	616	206	246	81	—	—	370	125	—	—	
Broomley and Stocksfield	1837	626	—	—	1660	586	177	40	—	—	
Bywell	426	126	—	—	—	—	426	126	—	—	
Chollerton	1059	271	393	101	—	—	666	170	—	—	
Corbridge	2950	904	2263	717	—	—	687	187	—	—	
Haydon	2048	687	1359	475	—	—	689	212	—	—	
Healey	232	69	—	—	—	—	232	69	—	—	
Hedley	187	54	141	40	—	—	46	14	—	—	
Hexhamshire	351	93	—	—	—	—	351	93	—	—	
Hexhamshire Low Quarter	255	93	154	45	—	—	101	48	—	—	
Horsley	400	125	—	—	340	110	60	15	—	—	
Humshaugh	535	175	283	108	—	—	252	67	—	—	
Newbrough	468	183	245	71	—	—	223	112	—	—	
Ovingham	460	175	—	—	417	159	43	16	—	—	
Ovington	628	134	—	—	589	123	39	11	—	—	
Sandhoe	367	97	—	—	—	—	367	97	—	—	
Simonburn	283	85	—	—	—	—	283	85	—	—	
Slaley	764	151	666	127	—	—	98	24	—	—	
Wall	522	154	235	82	—	—	287	72	—	—	
Warden	697	200	—	—	—	—	697	200	—	—	
West Allen	316	117	—	—	—	—	316	117	—	—	
Whittington	407	128	158	47	—	—	249	81	—	—	
Whittonstall	569	177	—	—	—	—	520	162	49	15	
Wylam	1377	441	—	—	1371	439	6	2	—	—	
TOTALS	20869	6609	7934	2572	4377	1417	8509	2605	49	15	

PRIVATE PIPED SUPPLIES SERVING MORE THAN 10 HOUSES.

PARISH.	No. of houses on supply.	NAME OF SUPPLY.
Acomb	12	The Riding.
Blanchland	40	Blanchland.
Broomhaugh and Riding	105	Riding Estate.
Broomley	25	Broomley Village.
Bywell	12	Bywell Hall.
	20	Newton Village.
	24	Newton Hall.
Chollerton	17	Tone Hall (Chipchase).
	10	Great Swinburne.
	12	Barrasford Quarry.
	37	Barrasford Village.
Corbridge	4	Stagshaw.
	30	Dilston Hall.
Healey	19	Minsteracres.
Hexhamshire	45	Kings Law.
Humshaugh	19	Planetrees and Chesters.
	20	Teppermoor.
	16	Haughton Castle.
Newbrough	24	Settlingstones.
	15	Carr Edge.
	23	Butt Bank.
	17	Allerwash.
Sandhoe	22	Anick.
	16	Sandhoe Village.
	7	Stagshaw
Simonburn	21	Simonburn Village.
	15	Nunwick.
	3	Teppermoor.
Slaley	11	Trygill.
	10	Slaley Hall.
Warden	100	Fourstones.
	16	East Fourstones.
	16	Warden Paper Mill.
	12	High Warden.
	9	Butt Bank.
Whittonstall	14	Shotley Field.
	5	Minsteracres.

SUMMARY OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR.
I.—COUNCIL SUPPLIES.

SUPPLY.	No. of of samples.		No. Satisfactory.		No. Unsatisf't'y		Total Samples taken.
	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	
Acomb	10	—	3	—	7	—	10
Allendale	5	—	4	—	1	—	5
Ropehaugh	3	—	1	—	2	—	3
Broomhaugh	10	—	9	—	1	—	10
Colwell	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Corbridge	22	—	18	—	4	—	22
Gunnerton	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Haydon Bridge	6	—	6	—	—	—	6
Horsley	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Humshaugh	20	—	11	—	9	—	20
Newbrough	12	—	8	—	4	—	12
Slaley	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Wall	5	—	5	—	—	—	5
Whittington	12	—	8	—	4	—	12
	112	—	80	—	32	—	112

In all cases, where unsatisfactory samples were obtained the contamination occurred after heavy rainfall. At Acomb, the normal supply to the village was cut off whilst the water was contaminated and the supply was provided from Holly Hall Springs, Corbridge. In other cases, chlorination was carried out until samples showed that there was no further contamination.

2.—PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

SUPPLY.	No. of Samples.		No. Satisfactory.		No. Unsatisf't'y.		Total Samples taken.
	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	
School House,							
Minsteracres ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Lipwood Well Farm	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Haughton	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Lilswood Chapel ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Lincoln Hill,							
Humshaugh	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whitechapel. Haydon							
Bridge	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
Gooseholme, Aller-							
wash	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Shaw House, Newton	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Settlingstones ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Glebe Farm,							
Ovingham	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Low Houses, Stag-							
shaw	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Ferryland Field,							
Ovington	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Hermitage Field,							
Ovingham	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Riding Mill	14	—	14	—	—	—	14
Oakwood	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Newton Village ..	3	—	1	—	2	—	3
Corstopitum, Cor-							
bridge	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Blackhall Mill,							
Hexhamshire ..	2	—	1	—	1	—	2
Channel Well Farm ..	6	—	2	—	4	—	6
North Dunslawholme							
Farm, Horsley ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Beaufront Castle ..	4	—	4	—	—	—	4
Oaklands, Hexham ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Anick	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Moss Cottages,							
Warden	12	—	2	—	10	—	12
Hardhaugh	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
	63	—	41	—	22	—	63

Newton.

The contamination was found to be due to surface water obtaining access to the reservoir in time of flood. This defect has now been remedied.

Oakwood.

The supply was chlorinated during the period of contamination.

Blackhall Mill.

Repairs were made to the collecting chamber and a sample taken after the work was completed proved satisfactory.

Channel Well Farm.

This supply is subject to intermittent pollution and the owner has been advised to instal a domestic filter for drinking water.

North Dunslawholme Farm.

A new supply has been provided.

Moss Cottages, Warden.

Work has been carried out to protect the supply from contamination. Further samples will be taken.

Corstopitum.

It was proposed to use this supply for domestic purposes, but in view of the result of the sample, the scheme was abandoned.

3.—PROPOSED SUPPLIES.

SUPPLY.	No. of Samples.		No. Satisfactory.		No. Unsatisf't'y.		Total Samples taken.
	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.	
Errington Farm ..	4	1	—	—	4	1	5
Lord's Lot, Hexhamshire ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Loningside, Alledale ..	3	—	3	—	—	—	3
	9	1	3	—	6	1	10

Errington Farm.

The owners have been advised to fit either a chlorinator or a Berkefield type filter.

Lord's Lot, Hexhamshire.

The water for this scheme came from open runners and approval was given subject to the provision of a main sand filter and domestic filters in each house.

HOUSING.**Houses completed during 1954.**

		With state Assistance	Unaided	Total
A.	BY LOCAL AUTHORITY—	77	—	77
	Acomb .. 16			
	Allendale .. 8			
	Corbridge .. 24			
	Colwell .. 5			
	Newbrough .. 14			
	Stocksfield .. 10			
B.	BY OTHER BODIES OR PERSONS	—	30	30
				<hr/> 107 <hr/>

Houses under construction at 31st December, 1954.

		With state Assistance	Unaided	Total
A.	BY LOCAL AUTHORITY—	51	—	51
	Corbridge 10			
	Newbrough .. 25			
	Stocksfield .. 16			
B.	BY OTHER BODIES OR PERSONS	—	22	22
				<hr/> 73 <hr/>

Summary of Post-War Building.

			No. of Houses.	No. of persons housed.
A.	BY COUNCIL—			
	Acomb	..	62	261
	Allendale	..	20	94
	Corbridge	..	72	315
	Colwell	..	5	25
	Fourstones	..	16	83
	Gunnerton	..	6	30
	Haydon Bridge	..	46	223
	Horsley	..	4	19
	Humshaugh	..	6	29
	Newbrough	..	24	96
	Ovingham	..	46	177
	Slaley	..	12	46
	Stocksfield	..	32	138
	Wall	..	8	36
	Wylam	..	36	155
			<hr/> 395	<hr/> 1727
B.	BY PRIVATE PERSONS..			
			<hr/> 98	<hr/>
			<hr/> 493	

The Council now owns 546 houses, 395 of which have been built since 1945. A further 51 are in the course of construction.

902 complaints in connection with repairs were dealt with during the year.

Improvement Grants.

Dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grants were approved :—

			No. of houses.	Total Cost of Works.	Amount of Grants approved.
1951—1953	..	..	45	£21,454	£10,727
1954	..	..	92	51,842	25,000
			<hr/> 137	<hr/> £73,296	<hr/> £35,727

Building Licences.

As from 10th November, 1954, all building and civil engineering work could be carried out without the need for a Building Licence.

LOCAL AUTHORITY : Hexham Rural District Council.
COUNTY : Northumberland.

CLEARANCE AREAS and INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES
RETURN for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

PART A.—CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936).

	No. of dwellinghouses demolished in the period.		No. of persons displaced.
	Unfit houses.	Other houses.	
(1) Land coloured ' pink ' ..	Nil	—	—
(2) Land coloured 'grey ' ..	—	Nil	—

PART B.—HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS.

	No. of	
	Houses.	Persons displaced.
Demolition and Closing Orders—		
(1) Housing Act, 1936.		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section II ..	Nil	—
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force	5	20
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) ..	Nil	—
(2) Housing Act, 1949.		
(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1)	Nil	—
(b) Demolition orders determined and closing orders substituted under Section 3 (2) ..	Nil	—
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.		
Closing orders made under Section 10 (1)	Nil	—
		No. of Houses.
Repairs—		
INFORMAL ACTION.		
(4) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts		Nil
ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.		
(5) Public Health Acts.		
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—		
(a) by owners		Nil
(b) by local authority in default of owners ..		Nil
(6) Housing Act, 1936.		
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)—		
(a) by owners		Nil
(b) by local authority in default of owners ..		Nil

SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1.—MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat Inspection.

As from 2nd July, 1954, slaughtering of animals for human consumption reverted to private butchers and from that date, Meat Inspection has been carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors.

Slaughterhouses.

Applications were received for the licensing of twelve slaughter houses, all of which were granted after any necessary alterations or improvements were carried out to bring them to a satisfactory standard. They are as follows :—

ADDRESS.	LICENCE.
Allendale ..	Allendale Co-operative Society Ltd.
Catton	T. Glendinning.
Haydon Bridge	Haydon Bridge Co-operative Society Ltd.
Haydon Bridge	Telford and Charlton.
Newbrough ..	A. Lister.
Humshaugh ..	R. H. Hutchinson.
Whittington ..	M. C. Renwick.
Corbridge ..	J. D. Hall.
Slaley	J. S. Philipson.
Stocksfield ..	A. Whitelaw.
Stocks field ..	A. Lawson & Sons.
Whittonstall ..	T. W. and R. Jewitt.

Carcases inspected and condemned.
(For period 6 months, 2nd July to 31st Dec., 1954)

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number of animals killed	386	3	12	1251	200
Dressed and undressed carcasses	1	—	1	3	—
Number inspected	387	3	13	1254	200
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	72	2	—	30	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	18.5	66.7	7.7	2.6	4.5
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	29	—	—	—	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	7.5	—	—	—	3.0

Summary of unsound Carcase Meat and Offals.

	Tuberculosis	Other diseases and conditions.	Total.
Cows	—	37 lbs.	37 lbs.
Other animals.. ..	1,007 lbs.	1,368 lbs.	2,375 lbs.
Total	1,007 lbs.	1,405 lbs.	2,412 lbs.

2.—FOOD INSPECTION.

Unsound Food.	Surrendered	Seized.	Legal Proceedings.
Beef (home killed)	2,412 lbs.	—	—
Tinned Meats	7 lbs.	—	—
Other Tinned Foods	24 lbs.	—	—

3.—DETAILS OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE DISTRICT.

	Hotels and Inns.	Social Clubs and Public Halls.	School Canteens.	Works Canteens.	Butchers.	General Dealers, Grocers and Confectioners.	Cafes.	Fish & Chip Shops.	Bake- houses.
Ovington, Ovingham, Horsley	6	1	1	—	1	9	—	1	—
Slaley, Hexhamshire, Blanch- land, Shotley, Whittington	7	1	7	—	3	15	1	—	—
Wall, Humshaugh, Whitting- ton, Bingfield	5	—	4	—	2	5	1	—	—
Broomley, Stocksfield, Hedley, Newton	3	—	2	2	4	11	1	—	2
Wylam	6	1	—	—	1	10	—	—	1
Chollerton, Simonburn, Colwell, Barrasford, Gunnerton ..	3	—	2	—	—	6	1	—	—
Corbridge	8	5	—	1	3	13	4	1	3
Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden	3	1	2	—	2	3	—	—	—
Haydon, Langley, Lowgate ..	6	1	3	—	2	13	2	1	1
Allendale, Catton, W. Allen ..	10	—	3	—	2	18	4	1	1
Sandhoe	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acomb	3	—	1	—	—	6	—	1	—
Broomhaugh, Healey, Riding Mill	2	—	2	—	1	5	—	—	—
	64	10	27	3	21	114	14	5	8

Premises registered for manufacture of potted meats 21

4.—MILK.

Number of Dairies registered 1

Dealers' Licences.

No. of Licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk 8
 No. of Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk 8
 No. of Licences to sell Sterilised Milk 6

Sampling.

Samples taken for	Number taken.	Number Satisfactory.	Number Unsatisfactory.
Tuberculosis	10	10	—
Other pathogens	1	1	—

5.—ICE CREAM

No. of premises registered for Sale and/or Manufacture of Ice-cream 47

Sampling.

Type of Sample.	Number taken.	Grading.			
		1	2	3	4
Pre-packed	15	15	—	—	—

REMOVAL OF DOMESTIC REFUSE.

The direct labour scavenging is carried out by four Bedford vehicles of 7 cubic yard capacity, each with a driver and one loader.

During the year, the service was extended to include the area from Allenheads to Sparty Lea comprising 97 premises, and Bywell Hall and cottages comprising 37 houses. A further 164 houses have been included due to new building and extensions to areas already scavenged.

The scavenging service now covers the following areas of the district.

1.—By direct labour—

*Number of
Premises.*

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS :

Corbridge and Dilston	..	..	..	789
Stocksfield	..	..	..	563
Wylam	..	..	..	448
Haydon Bridge	..	..	..	430
Fourstones, Newbrough, Settlingstones	..			290
Acomb	..	..	..	280
Riding Mill	..	..	..	129
Humshaugh, Walwick, Lincoln Hill	..			129
Wall	..	..	..	83
Slaley	..	..	..	75
Sandhoe, Stagshaw	..	..	..	63
Broomhaugh	..	..	..	58
Warden	..	..	..	57
Anick, Oakwood, The Riding	..	..		65
Hedley	..	..	..	39

FORTNIGHTLY COLLECTIONS :

Juniper	..	..	..	52
Blanchland	..	..	..	39
Whittonstall	..	..	..	24
North Tyne, Whittington, Halton, Shildon, Aydon, Newton, Newton Hall, Stelling,				
Bywell, Peepy	..	..	..	466

4,079

2.—By contract—

*No. of houses
Scavenged.*

Allendale and Catton	..	353
Allenheads	..	97
Ovingham	..	219
Ovington	..	131
Horsley	..	90

890

4,969

Total number of houses in district	..	..	6,829
Total number of houses scavenged	..	..	4,969
Percentage of houses scavenged by direct labour	..		60%
Percentage of houses scavenged by contract	..		13%
Percentage of houses scavenged	..	..	73%

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Almost all houses in the following places have water-closets :—

Allendale	Anick	Broomhaugh
Catton	Corbridge	Hedley
Humshaugh	Newbrough	Oakwood
Ovingham	Riding Mill	Settlingstones
Stocksfield	Wall	Wylam
	Sandhoe	

The greater part of the houses in the following places have water-closets :—

Acomb	Blanchland	Haydon Bridge
Healey	Juniper	Slaley
	Whittington	

In the following places, the greater part of the houses have privies or pail closets :—

Allenheads	Barrasford	Carrshield
Colwell	Fourstones	Gunnerton
Hallington	Horsley	Newton
Newton Hall	Ninebanks	Ovington
Simonburn	Whittonstall	

Privy Conversions.

During the year, privy conversion schemes were prepared for Acomb and Haydon Bridge. Tenders have been let for both schemes but the work has not yet begun.

In 1955 it is proposed to carry out schemes at Whittington, Horsley and Whittonstall.

In most of the other villages conversion schemes can not be carried out owing to insufficient water supply or absence of sewers or sewage works.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Summary of Inspections.

1.—Agricultural Premises.

Number of Inspections.	Major Infestations.	Minor Infestations.	Clear.
139	34	37	68

2.—Other Premises. Treated by Council.

Type of Premises.	Number of treatments.	Dead Rats recovered.	Dead Mice recovered.
Private Houses	458	188	17
Refuse Tips	47	68	—
Sewers and Sewage Works ..	40	12	—

Sewers.

10% test baiting of all sewers was carried out. There were takes at only two manholes, indicating that the sewers are practically free from infestation.

Tips.

All tips have been regularly treated and the infestations are now of a very minor character.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	77	7	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	36	36	—	—
TOTAL	120	47	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

PARTICULARS.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of (floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	2	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	2	1	—	—	—

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS, Etc., EFFECTED DURING THE YEAR.

IMPROVEMENT CARRIED OUT—

Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
New windows..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Ceilings renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Renewal of ranges	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Hot water system installed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
Bath installed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
Bathroom provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
Lavatory basin provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84
New sculleries provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
New sinks provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69
Foodstores provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Fuelstores provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Privies converted to W.C's...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	67
Washing accommodation provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Yard repaved..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
New drainage system provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Drainage system reconstructed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Inspection chamber provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
Septic tank and filters provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Water laid into house	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
New water supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Ashpits abolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dustbin provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Additional W.C's. provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Additional Urinals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS

from 1st Jan., 1954 to 31st Dec., 1954.

Water supplies (general)	..	.	..	..	..	..	60
Water supplies (sampling)	..	..	..	..	..	..	224
Water supplies (chlorination)	..	..	..	..	..	..	121
Housing .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	257
Drainage .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62
Testing of drains	..	..	..	..	..	..	183
Privy conversions	..	..	..	..	..	..	378
Nuisances .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90
Council houses (allocation)	..	..	..	..	..	..	670
Council houses (maintenance)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,459
Disinfection .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Infectious diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Food premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Food inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Meat inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	550
Ice-cream premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Ice-cream sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Milk sampling .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Factories . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Moveable dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Scavenging .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114
Sanitary conveniences at hotels, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Sewerage and sewage disposal works	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Keeping of animals	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Food poisoning .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Licensing .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Disinfestation .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Miscellaneous .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,435

